

USET SPF Alert: Carcieri Bill Committee Mark-up this WEDNESDAY

Dear USET SPF Membership,

We are writing to inform you that the House Natural Resources (HNR) Committee is marking up [H.R. 375](#) [bill text linked], Representative Tom Cole (R-OK) and Betty McCollum's (D-MN) bill to restore equity to the federal fee-to-trust process this [Wednesday, May 1st, at 10:00 am ET](#) [notice linked]. As you know, USET SPF has been advocating for a fix to the Supreme Court decision in *Carcieri v. Salazar*, since it was handed down in 2009. *Carcieri* has created a deeply inequitable 2-class system, in which some Tribal Nations have the ability to restore their homelands and others do not. This 2-class system serves to deny these Tribal Nations a critical component of the trust relationship, vital aspects of the exercise of inherent sovereignty, and the opportunity to qualify for several government programs.

H.R. 375 contains the two features necessary to restore parity to the land-into-trust process: (1) a reaffirmation of the status of current trust lands; and (2) confirmation that the Secretary has authority to take land into trust for all federally recognized Tribal Nations. USET SPF continues to call for its immediate passage.

As the [HNR Committee considers sending H.R. 375 to the House floor for a vote](#) [information on the committee consideration process linked], it is vital that members of the Committee hear from Tribal Nations on the importance of this simple correction to a truly misguided Supreme Court decision. That is why we are urging USET SPF membership to reach out to [members of the HNR Committee](#) [contact list linked] and tell them:

1. **[Tribal Nation]** is counting on you to vote in favor of H.R. 375 during Wednesday's House Natural Resources Committee mark-up.
2. H.R. 375 is bi-partisan legislation supported by a diverse majority of Tribal Nations and organizations that would simply ensure **all** federally-recognized Tribal Nations have the ability to restore their homelands through a rigorous trust land acquisition process.
3. The federal government should ensure every Tribal Nation has the opportunity to restore its homelands, regardless of the concerns of other units of government, private citizens, or other interests. This is a necessary function of the U.S. government in delivering upon the trust responsibility and obligations to Tribal Nations.
4. The bill does only two things: 1. It stabilizes the existing Tribal land base by reaffirming lands already held in trust and 2. It restores parity to the land-into-trust process by confirming that the Secretary of the Interior has the authority to acquire lands for **all** federally-recognized Tribal Nations.

To further assist you with these conversations, we provide the following:

- [USET SPF Testimony for the Record of the HNR Hearing on H.R. 375](#)
- [DRAFT Inter-Tribal Org Sign-On Letter](#)

USET SPF will be reaching out to members of the HNR Committee today, as well. We will continue to follow the progress of H.R. 375 and provide updates as they become available.

Thank you,

Liz Malerba ~ *Citizen of the Mohegan Tribe*
Director of Policy and Legislative Affairs
United South and Eastern Tribes
Sovereignty Protection Fund (USET SPF)
400 North Capitol Street, Suite 585
Washington, D.C. 20001

Office: 202-624-3550
Cell: 615-838-5906
Fax: 202-393-5218